

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

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COLLEGE AND CAREER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES EXPANDED FOR NEBRASKA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Nebraska high school students this fall could have more opportunities to earn college credit for courses they take in high school and access to more career education courses under a change that creates two new teaching certificates for college faculty and skilled professionals.

The change allows college faculty and skilled professionals to teach Nebraska high school students under two new teaching certificates: a new dual-credit teaching certificate and a career education certificate. The certificates will be available in August, paving the way to expanded career education and college-level learning opportunities for high school students this fall.

“The goal is to improve the state’s college going-rate and the career readiness of high school graduates by offering students expanded and higher-level learning opportunities,” according to Sharon Katt, Nebraska Department of Education administrator for teacher certification.

“Research shows that high school students who have an opportunity to earn college-credits are more likely to go on to college,” Katt said, and having skilled professionals teach high school courses in career fields such as the medical field or technical fields builds student interest in pursuing a career after they graduate.

“The time has come to better meet the needs of K-12 students,” Katt said, emphasizing that the intent is not to replace regularly certificated K-12 teachers but to enhance the educational opportunities available to students in high school.

An online application for the new certificates is available at <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/tcert>. These certificates will be issued in August and effective for the new school year.

To receive a dual-credit certificate, college faculty must be employed at a postsecondary education institution, hold a Master’s Degree and have graduate hours in the content area they teach. Applicants for the career education certificate must document their expertise in their specialty area. For more information, contact Kevin Peters at 402.471.0739 or Kevin.peters@nebraska.gov